

*Amendments to the Claims*

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An injection molding apparatus comprising:

a first manifold having a first manifold channel for receiving a first melt stream of moldable material under pressure, said first manifold channel having a first outlet for delivering the first melt stream to a first nozzle channel of a nozzle;

a second manifold having a second manifold channel for receiving a second melt stream of moldable material under pressure, said second manifold channel having a second outlet for delivering the second melt stream to a second nozzle channel of said nozzle;

a mold cavity receiving said first melt stream and said second melt stream from said nozzle, said first nozzle channel and second nozzle channel communicating with said mold cavity through a mold gate;

a gating mechanism for selectively enabling communication between said first nozzle channel, said second nozzle channel and said mold gate;

an injection piston extending through an injection channel located between said first outlet of said first manifold channel and said first nozzle channel of said nozzle, said injection piston being slidable through said injection channel and having an outer wall for abutting an inner wall of said injection channel, said injection piston being movable from a retracted position enabling communication between said first outlet of said first manifold

channel to an extended position to ~~force melt towards said mold cavity~~ blocking said first outlet of said first manifold channel;

wherein movement of said injection piston towards said extended position forces melt located in a melt chamber of said first nozzle channel to flow into said mold cavity.

2. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] injection molding apparatus as claimed in of claim 1, wherein a ~~predetermined volume of melt is located in~~ said melt chamber is defined by [[of]] said first nozzle channel at one end and a forward end of said injection piston at an opposite end.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a molded product from at least two different materials comprising the steps of:

injecting a first material into a mold cavity via a valve gated nozzle having a first melt channel[[,]];

injecting a second material into a melt chamber located at least partially in a second melt channel of said valve gated nozzle;

moving an injection piston into a position to block the second material from entering the melt chamber while the second material is blocked from entering the mold cavity;

opening communication between the second melt channel and the mold cavity and further extending the injection piston so as to inject ~~injecting~~ said second material from said melt chamber [[o]] into said mold cavity ~~by operating an injection piston which is in fluid communication with said melt chamber.~~

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An injection molding apparatus comprising:

a manifold having a first manifold channel for receiving a first melt stream of moldable material under pressure and a second manifold channel for receiving a second melt stream of moldable material under pressure, said first melt stream exiting said manifold through a first manifold outlet and said second melt stream exiting said manifold through a second manifold outlet;

a first nozzle channel extending through a nozzle for receiving said first melt stream from said first manifold outlet;

a second nozzle channel extending through said nozzle for receiving said second melt stream from said second manifold outlet;

a mold cavity for selectively receiving said first melt stream and said second melt stream from said nozzle, said first nozzle channel and second nozzle channel communicating with said mold cavity through a mold gate;

an injection piston movable within at least a portion of said first nozzle channel, said injection piston being slidable between a retracted position enabling communication between said first manifold outlet and said first nozzle channel and an extended position blocking said first manifold outlet;

wherein movement of said injection piston towards said extended position forces melt located in a melt chamber of said first nozzle channel to flow into said mold cavity.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ injection molding apparatus ~~as claimed in of~~ claim 5, further comprising a valve pin, said valve pin being slidable through said first nozzle channel and at least a portion of said second nozzle channel, said valve pin being movable between an open position, a partially open position~~[[,]]~~ in which communication between said first nozzle channel and said second nozzle channel is blocked, and a closed position~~[[,]]~~ in which said valve pin engages said mold gate.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ injection molding apparatus ~~as claimed in of~~ claim 6, wherein said first melt channel is surrounded by said second melt channel.

8. (New) The injection molding apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first melt channel is surrounded by said second melt channel.

9. (New) The injection molding apparatus of claim 8, wherein said gating mechanism includes a valve pin, said valve pin being slidable through said first nozzle channel and at least a portion of said second nozzle channel, said valve pin being movable between an open position wherein melt from both of said first nozzle channel and said second nozzle channel flows into said mold cavity, a partially open position wherein communication between said first nozzle channel and said second nozzle channel is blocked, and a closed position in which said valve pin engages said mold gate to block

communication between both of said first nozzle channel and said second nozzle channel and said mold cavity.

10. (New) The injection molding apparatus of claim 1, wherein said gating mechanism includes a valve pin and said valve pin is slidable relative to said injection piston.

11. (New) The injection molding apparatus of claim 10, wherein said valve pin is slidable through a bore in said injection piston.

12. (New) The injection molding apparatus of claim 6, wherein said valve pin is slidable relative to said injection piston.

13. (New) The injection molding apparatus of claim 12, wherein said valve pin is slidable through a bore in said injection piston.